MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 JANUARY 1983

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Talks -- A senior Israeli political source indicated that Israel will adopt the latest U.S. proposal to resolve the problem over the agenda for the negotiations, although the Israelis may raise some reservations at the negotiating table, IDF Radio reported. Nothing remains but to wait for Lebanon's approval, the radio said, and "voices from Beirut indicate that such approval is indeed emerging." Earlier, official Lebanese sources in Beirut announced that Lebanon has accepted the new U.S. proposals, according to reports by AFP and Jerusalem radio. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon subsequently confirmed that Lebanon approved the final text of the U.S. proposals after explaining to Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Morris Draper the maximum that it could accept. According to Jerusalem radio, the U.S. proposals will allow each delegation to suggest subjects for discussion without following an agreed upon or binding agenda.

Draper and U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib both arrived in Israel, Jerusalem radio reported later on 11 January. Noting that the two envoys will meet with Prime Minister Menahem Begin, the radio said Habib is carrying a message for Begin from President Reagan.

Tripoli Situation -- Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan arrived on an official visit to Tripoli, Beirut radio reported on 12 January. The previous day, Tripoli Bishop Habib Khuri was wounded by gunmen, but the city was otherwise calm, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Lebanese internal security forces have not yet deployed throughout the "hot areas" because of the armed Palestinian, 'Alawite and "alien" presence, the radio said.

PLO Affairs

Moscow Visit -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and a high-ranking PLO delegation, including PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum and PLO International Department head Faruq Qaddumi, are in Moscow for the Palestinians' first meeting with the new Soviet leadership, KUNA reported. The 3-day official visit will focus on Middle East issues and on strengthening bilateral relations, KUNA added. Following the USSR visit, the PLO leader will tour several Arab countries, beginning with Iraq, in order to brief Arab leaders, INA reported.

Reagan Initiative -- At its 6 January meeting in Kuwait, the Fatah Central Committee rejected President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative and Yasir 'Arafat informed the Higher Palestinian-Jordanian Committee of this stand during the committee's recent meeting in Amman, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf declared in remarks published in the 10 January issue of the Kuwait daily AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM. However, 'Arafat asserted that the PLO will consider forming a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to join peace negotiations in accordance with both the Reagan initiative and UN Security Council Resolution No 242 if Israel makes a positive move toward withdrawing its forces from Lebanon, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Libyan Meeting -- Representatives of various Palestinian groups began meeting in Libya to decide on a "definite program" for reactivating pan-Arab, revolutionary action, Damascus radio reported citing remarks made by Secretary General of the PFLP-General Command Ahmad Jibril.

PNC Meeting -- According to Jerusalem radio, Yasir 'Arafat reportedly told Jordan's King Husayn that it is doubtful that the PNC will convene as scheduled next month in Algiers because leftist elements in Palestinian organizations may boycott the meeting.

Israel

Sharon on Talks With Jordan, Palestinians -- Israel would be happy to talk with Jordan about the Camp David autonomy plan, but "there is no room at this point to discuss other plans," since Camp David is "the only realistic plan that can be realized and implemented," Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon declared in an interview broadcast by IDF Radio. Israel recognizes that Palestinian personalities must participate in the negotiations, Sharon added, but they should be neither overt nor covert PLO members, nor should they be messengers for the PLO. The Palestinian negotiators should be residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza who want peaceful coexistence with Israel, the defense minister asserted.

According to the Jerusalem POST, Sharon's statement seems to signal hardening of Israel's position on Palestinian participation in any peace talks.

Jerusalem Bomb -- Twelve suspects were arrested after one person was wounded by a bomb explosion in Jerusalem, Jerusalem radio reported.

Arab Foreign Relations

Saudi-Libyan Relations -- Saudi Arabia's ambassador will return to Libya "as soon as possible," SPA reported citing an official source.

UK Relations -- Former West Bank Mayor Muhammad Milhem will represent the PLO when the Fes summit delegation visits Britain on 7 February, according to KUNA. This "breakthrough" was reportedly reached during an 8 January meeting in Rabat between Moroccan Foreign Minister M'hammed Boucetta and the British ambassador to Morocco, KUNA added. However, the British Foreign Office admitted only that "some progress" has been made and cautioned that more consultations with other Arab governments are needed, London PRESS ASSOCIATION reported. The PLO insists that Faruq Qaddumi be the Palestinian delegate, the director of the PLO's Rabat office declared to INA.

Egyptian-Soviet Relations -- Egypt will not resume relations with the Soviet Union on the previous basis but is willing to resume relations and exchange ambassadors on the basis of equality and noninterference by either side in the internal affairs of the other, the daily AL-AKHBAR announced in a commentary reviewed by Cairo radio. Egypt's primary principle is nonalignment, the paper said, and relations with other countries must be based on the principles of friendship, equality and free will.

Meanwhile, Soviet Embassy officials in Cairo disclosed that the director of the Soviet Academy of Sciences African Institute, Anatoliy Gromyko, has arrived in Egypt for talks connected with improving Soviet-Egyptian relations, KUNA reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes launched 80 raids against Iranian positions in the Maysan sector on 11 January, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed.

Iran

Iran's Japanese partners in the construction of a petrochemical plant in Bandar-e Khomeyni have until 13 January to decide to resume construction of the plant; otherwise, Iran will find other means to complete the project, IRNA reported. The Iranian director of the joint project, who conveyed Iran's position to the Japanese companies at a meeting in Tokyo, expressed optimism that the Japanese will agree to resume the project.

Afghanistan

A group of Soviet advisers was kidnapped in the northern town of Mazar-e Sharif last week, AFP reported.

DAILY REPORT

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REBEL SPOKESMAN ON KIDNAPPED SOVIET ADVISERS

BK111520 Hong Kong AFP in English 1455 GMT 11 Jan 83

[By Michel Martin-Rolland]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, Jan. 11 (AFP) -- Resistance fighters kidnapped 14 to 16 Soviet civilian advisors -- possibly including two women -- in broad daylight last week in the market area of Mazar-e Sharif in northern Afghanistan, a Western diplomatic source disclosed here.

Meanwhile a spokesman for the Jami'at-e Eslami resistance movement, whose stronghold is the Mazar Province, announced that "a number of Soviet advisors" had been seized by guerrillas units. The spokesman, Dr. Azim Nasri, said the advisors "are still alive" and will probably be taken to Peshawar, Pakistan, unless they are placed in detention "in a secret location."

If the reports are accurate, it would be the first time since the Soviet intervention three years ago that so large a group of Soviet personnel had been kidnapped by the resistance. The daytime kidnapping of Soviet advisors in the center of the main city in northern Afghanistan, as reported today, would not be inconsistent with the renowned penchant for daring operations of the guerrilla leader believed responsible, Commander Zabih-Ullahi, according to sources close to the resistance movement in Peshawar.

Urban guerrilla operations have lately intensified in Mazar-e Sharif, one rebel informant said, forcing Afghan President Babrak Karmal to take extra security measures when he came to the city to hold a meeting of his party in the public garden September 15. Information provided by Western embassies in Kabul has revealed that the mujahadeen now control several areas around Mazar-e Sharif.

Soviet authorities have sent numerous engineers, technicians and civilian advisors to the city to develop the area's energy capacities and to exploit natural gas fields located there. A major chemical fertilizer plant has been built that is partially staffed by Soviets.

Western diplomats have also cited reports from Herat in western Afghanistan that speak of a crash in mid-December of an airliner operated by the Afghan Bahktar Airline. The diplomats believe it is possible the plane was shot down by resistance forces. They provided no information on casualties but suggested that some of the passengers survived the crash.

For the past several weeks, they said, Herat has been totally deprived of electricity and almost virtually without running water.

In the capital, Kabul, finally, electricity remains drastically reduced with certain quarters of the inner city without power for all but one hour a day. An electrical company official appeared last week on television to confirm that the city's high tension lines had been damaged by the resistance.

DEFECTOR DESCRIBES ARMY SHORTAGES, RIVALRIES

BK111213 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Jan. 11 (AFP) -- The Afghan Army never has more than a week's supply of food at its disposal and wounded Afghan soldiers die from loss of blood on the battlefield as Soviet injured are evacuated first, a senior Afghan military officer who defected a week ago said here.

Brigadier-General Mohammad Nawaz, 40, a supply officer, said military hospitals in Kabul were so short of drugs that Afghan soldiers had to ask their families to procure medicines on the black market.

He said the Afghan Army, hit by massive desertions and now numbering only 20,000 men, was suffering enormous logistical problems because of the absolute priority given by Soviet military advisors to Red Army troops deployed in the country. Afghan units in distant posts "lack food, clothing, medicine and sometimes even fuel for their vehicles," according to General Nawaz, who said that he had received numerous messages from Afghan commanders desperate for fuel for their armored vehicles to counter-attack rebel forces.

On several occasions, he said, Moscow had sent supplies of uniforms and shoes that were so old the Afghan Government preferred to sell them in the bazaar rather than distribute them to its troops.

General Nawaz said he defected when he feared Soviet advisors began to suspect him of supplying information to the resistance.

His account tended to confirm reports from other dissident Afghan officers here that Soviet and Afghan troops stationed far away from major military bases are often short of motor fuel.

He said tanker convoys travelling toward Kabul from the Soviet border were frequently attacked by mujahadeen rebels in the Hindu Kush mountains, causing Soviet forces to step up air and ground support.

The general said that in a bid to shore up Afghan morale Soviet authorities, who determine all personnel movement in the Afghan Army, had increased promotions. In his supply unit in Kabul, he said, there were now twenty brigadier-generals for 400 men. Civilians are given senior grade military classifications even though they have had no military training, according to General Nawaz. Within the army, he continued, rivalry between the Parcham and Khalq factions of the Afghan communist party sometimes spills over into bloody fighting. Twenty-four policemen and soldiers were killed in factional clashes that erupted in an official building located near the Kabul headquarters of the KOB, the Soviet intelligence-gathering agency, he said. The battle reportedly broke out following a dispute over the respective merits of President Babrak Karmal, who heads the Parcham group, and former President Mohammad Nur Taraki, who led the Khalq wing in the April, 1978 coup that ousted the government of President Mohammad Daud.

One month later, during a military funeral for officers from both factions, the two sides formed separate processions and had no contact with one another, according to General Nawaz. The funerals were for Khalq officer General Abdul Wodud, who according to some reports was murdered by a Soviet advisor, and the nephew of the defense minister, a Parcham officer who died in eastern Afghanistan.

'TOTAL LIBERATED AREA' ESTIMATED AT 82 PERCENT

GF071304 Karachi DAWN in English 5 Jan 83 p 3

[Excerpt] Peshawar, Jan 4 -- The total liberated area of Afghanistan under the control of the mujahideen is estimated at 82 percent, according to figures released by the Afghan Documentation Centre (ADC) here on Monday.

One hundred and six districts and sub-districts in Afghanistan have been fully liberated, the release adds. The information was gathered from the resistance commands besides ADC's own independent sources. It said in the other 14 districts and sub-districts, the liberated area varied from 90 percent to fifty percent. The report further added that in the areas controlled by the Karmal regime the resistance forces operate often at nights and sometimes in broad daylight.

BABRAK KARMAL GREETS HUSAK ON 70TH BIRTHDAY

LD120730 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Kabul, Jan 11 BAKHTAR -- The following message by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, was communicated to Prague on the occasion of the 70th birthday anniversary of Gustav Husak, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and president of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia.

Dear Comrade Husak,

Permit me to express on behalf of the PDPA Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, the people of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and on my own behalf, the most sincere congratulations and greetings on the occasion of your 70th happy birth anniversary to you, to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and to the fraternal people of Czechoslovakia.

The progressive mankind gratifies your prideful life which is full of indefatigable struggles for the lofty ideals of the toiling man and attaches great value to your active role as a prominent personality of the world communist and workers movement in the consolidation of the world peace and in the strengthening of the socialist camp and to your fraternal and international contribution to the national liberation movements.

Your role in organizing anti-fascist resistance in Czechoslovakia and particularly preparing the Czechoslovak national uprising is outstanding. And the historic victory of the people of Czechoslovakia over fascism in close friendship and fraternal relations with the heroic people of the Soviet Union has a direct link with your name.

Under your wise leadership and your creative role, the fraternal people of Czechoslovakia under the leadership of its vanguard, the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, have achieved spectacular successes in the construction of a blossoming socialist society and move forward day to day towards new fresh horizons of a new life.

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the militant people of Afghanistan are immensely delighted at the great successes of the people of fraternal Czechoslovakia and highly esteem the existing unshakeable friendship between our parties and our people which is based on the proletarian internationalism.

We are grateful for the solidarity and the fraternal assistance that the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia have rendered to our country at the difficult moment of our history and will never forget it.

I have a firm belief that this unshakeable friendly relation which is in the interest of peace all over the world and our common cause would further develop and deepen.

While congratulating you once again on your birth anniversary I wish for the victories of the Czechoslovak people led by the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and headed by you esteemed comrade in the task of fulfilling of the decisions of the 70th congress of your party. [sentence as received]

I wish for your health, long life and further victories at the head of Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

With comradely greetings Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA

STUDENTS DEFY GOVERNMENT BAN ON PROTEST MARCH

BK111605 Hong Kong AFP in English 1526 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Jan. 11 (AFP) -- Several thousand students here defied their leaders and a government ban on processions today to march in protest at the military government's new education policy which stresses religion and technology.

Despite a strong government warning on Sunday, and a last-minute attempt by some student leaders to call off the march, the students proceeded peacefully from Dhaka University to the heavily guarded educational building a mile away. There the marchers sat down, only a few hundred yards from the government secretariat, in front of over 500 riot police backed by armed contingents who took up positions near the education building and blocked the road towards the secretariat.

Some students approached the police barricade and shouted slogans for about 45 minutes before leaving the scene peacefully. Despite general apprehension, there were no clashes with the police.

A senior police official present said they have been instructed to show utmost restraint and to avoid any serious confrontation.

Thirteen student organisations together with the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) had launched a movement to protest against the new education announced in November. They had declared January 11 a protest day to call for the policy's annulment and the formation of a new one on the basis of a consensus.

Informed sources said that after the government warning against breaking the law, the student leaders met till late last night but failed to agree among themselves whether to carry on the scheduled programme today or make some alterations.

After the protest sit-down, a few students later marched back to the faculty building and ransacked DUCSU office, apparently to show their indignation with their leaders' change of heart.

Nearly a dozen reporters and photographers covering the day's events were assaulted by groups of students. Some cameras of photographers were damaged. A student said the protesters were angry because of the complete blackout of news on their action in today's Dhaka newspapers.

Twenty-eight leaders of 18 political parties, including Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League, Retired Major Abdul Jalil of the JSD [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal] and Moni Singh of pro-Moscow Communist Party, issued a joint statement on Sunday night calling on the government to accept the student demands. The statement was carried yesterday by the Bengali daily SANGBAD.

AWAMI LEAGUE CHIEF ISSUES DEMAND FOR ELECTIONS

BK111557 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] In Bangladesh, chief of the Awami League, Hasina group, Mrs Hasina Wajed, has demanded the holding of general elections in the country on the basis of 1972 Constitution. To make the elections free and fair, martial law would have to be withdrawn, she said. Sheikh Hasina was addressing a meeting in Dhaka yesterday to commemorate the day of the return of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the Pakistani jail 11 years ago after the emergence of Bangladesh.

ERSHAD SPEAKS ON FUTURE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM

BK120204 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad has said the present government has full confidence in democracy and serious thinking is now on about the future democratic system in the country. He was addressing a Christmas reunion function in Dhaka this afternoon.

The CMLA said the past experience has proved that no single form of government, may it be parliamentary or presidential, is a must to ensure the welfare of the people. He said the presidential form of government will prove to be useful in ensuring a smooth administrative system for the country and in taking quick decisions as well as expediting their implementation. At the same time, he added, a strong Parliament with an effective opposition are all the more essential for the smooth blossoming of democracy. He, however, stressed the need for necessary safeguards so that the state power by any means does not concentrate in one single hand.

Gen Ershad said there should be such a strong and effective Parliament which will truly represent the hopes and aspirations of the people. As in the past, there should not be such a Parliament which will be made to act as a rubber stamp by dent of brute majority. The CMLA underscored the need for such a parliamentary system where the opposition will be able to play the true role of an opposition and live with a sense of a competition by pinpointing the lapses of the government in the interest and welfare of the masses. Gen Ershad said we want real democracy, people's democracy, and for this a (?stronger) system as well as a strong institution is very much essential. He asserted that he wants to shun the democracy of the past which was not worth a name and was meant to serving the interest of a certain section of people. Instead we want to establish a new democratic order which will be able to meet the needs of all sections of the people. The CMLA said the main objective of the present government is to carve out a place in the world map for Bangladesh as a dignified, strong and self-reliant nation. He said to achieve this we have already taken a number of important and epoch-making steps in various sectors of our national life. These are aimed at introducing a new system which will effectively replace the socioeconomic structure of the colonial age and will meet the demands and requirements of an independent and sovereign nation.

He said we want to have such a new system which will help improve the lot of the common man and will ensure the bare necessities of life such as food, clothing, and shelter. Gen Ershad said our prime objective is to establish a society free from corruption and exploitation and ensure balanced distribution of wealth. [passage indistinct]

Every citizen has full freedom of religion. The CMLA said he firmly believes that religious freedom is one of the main sources of inspiration at work for every human being. This religious freedom will make an important contribution to the major initiative taken by us to have a new Bangladesh. He said in the present tension-torn world, the prime need for mankind is to be imbued with true love for human beings and choose the path of cooperation and tolerance.

Referring to some demands of the Christian community, Gen Ershad said that their genuine grievances will be sympathetically looked into and they will be taken in confidence before any decision concerning their affairs is taken. A number of religious leaders of the Christian community and members of the Bangladesh Christian Association also spoke on the occasion. The function was rounded off with a musical [word indistinct].

SETHI COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH AKALI LEADERS

BK111607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Excerpt] The day-long talks between the central team and the Akali leaders ended in Chandigarh this evening.

Briefing newsmen, Home Minister Sethi said the talks were held in a very cordial atmosphere enabling both sides to understand each other better. He said the current round of talks is not yet over and we will be meeting again very shortly.

Replying to a question, Sethi said the next meeting will be held much before the 26th of this month. Replying to another question, Sethi said the details of today's talks cannot be given as the talks are not yet complete. He said both sides are very anxious for early settlement of the issue. Sethi expressed the hope that the current round of talks will prove decisive.

Two rounds of talks were held today at Punjab Raj Bhavan. The meeting was arranged in response to an invitation to the Akali leaders by Sethi a few days back.

ASSAM SITUATION REPORTED 'BY AND LARGE PEACEFUL'

BK120920 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] The overall situation in Assam remained by and large peaceful in the wake of a blackout and road blockade program by the agitationists last night. There were, however, few attempts to disrupt train services. State Chief Secretary Ramesh Chandra told All India Radio Gauhati correspondent this morning that there was an explosion on the railway track near Rangapara in Arrang District and a case of suspected sabotage of the railway track near (Jamapuri) in Sibsagar. The chief secretary said that the police foiled some attempts to kidnap a prospective candidate for the coming election from Niamati in Sibsagar District.

TRIPURA CPI-M MINISTRY SWORN IN 11 JANUARY

BK111041 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] In Tripura, a 12-member Communist Party of India-Marxist front ministry headed by Nripen Chakraborti was sworn in at Agartala this morning. Governor S.M.H. Burney administered the oath of office and secrecy. As already reported, Dasarath Deb, the former education minister, will be the deputy chief minister. The chief minister will look after finance, home, food, and civil supplies. The deputy chief minister will be in charge of education and tribal welfare including autonomous district councils.

AIR FORCE TEST LAUNCHES AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES

BK111039 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] The Indian Air Force has carried out an experiment of launching advanced air-to-air missiles of French make by fixing them on the wings of British-made Jaguar fighters. According to All India Radio, the advantage of this new method will be that the Jaguar fighters will now be able to carry cluster bombs and rockets also in the lower part of the aircraft.

MRD COMMITTEE MEETS, FORMULATES ACTION PLAN

GF110454 Karachi DAWN in English 8 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] The MRD's (Movement for the Restoration of Democracy] Central Action Committee met in Karachi yesterday at Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi's residence in Muslimabad and discussed for more than five hours the situation in the country as well as the organisational matters.

Presided over by Mr Jatoi, the committee's convener, the meeting formed a four-member subcommittee with a mandate to formulate a "programme of action."

The action committee, according to a source, reached the "unanimous" conclusion that "in the light of the present grave situation, peaceful transfer of power through democratic means is a sine qua non for national integrity and security."

Those present included Khwaja Khairuddin and Mr Mairaj Mohammad Khan, secretary-general and assistant secretary-general, respectively, of the MRD; Sardar Sherbaz Mazari, president of the defunct NDP [National Democratic Party]; Maulana Mohammad Shah Amrothi (JUI) (Jamiatul-Ulema-i-Islam); Mr Musheer Ahmad Pesh Imam, secretary-general of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqlal; Mr Fatehyab Ali Khan, chief of the defunct Mazdoor-Kissan Party; Mr Mushtaq Mirza (PDP) [Pakistan Democratic Party]; and Mr Abid Zuberi (NDP). The defunct PPP was represented by Mr Jatoi.

Khan Abdul Khaliq Khan and Haji Ghulam Ahmad Bilore, president and general secretray of the NWFP NDP, who accompanied Khan Abdul Wali Khan from Peshawar to Karachi, also attended the MRD meeting.

YAQUB KHAN LEAVES FOR OMAN, BAHRAIN 8 JANUARY

BK081521 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Karachi this afternoon for an official visit to Oman and Bahrain. During his stay there, he will hold talks with the two governments on international and regional issues of mutual concern. A five-member delegation is accompanying the foreign minister.

ZIAUL HAQ MEETS WITH UAE OFFICIAL 11 JANUARY

BK111700 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] The meeting of the joint ministerial commission of Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] will be called as soon as possible in order to increase cooperation between the two countries. This decision was made at a meeting between UAE Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Al Nuhayyan and President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today. Matters related to the further strengthening of bilateral relations were also discussed at the meeting.

Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad Al Nuhayyan announced a donation of 2.5 million rupees for a school for the deaf and dumb in Islamabad. The president, accepting this generous offer, announced that the school would immediately be named as the Hamdan Institute for the Deaf and Dumb.

Later, Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad Al Nuhayyan and President Mohammad Ziaul Haq exchanged gifts. The president presented a book journey through Pakistan to the UAE Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,180

LD111730 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Communique No 1,180 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, the forces of Islam opened fire on enemy infantry positions, artillery, mortar, and tank emplacements, inflicting loss and damages on the Saddamist forces.

Spo..dic exchanges of fire continued on the Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts and our forces pounded positions and fortifications of the aggressive enemy armed forces. In these regions, the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries suffered 3 observation posts and 2 trenches destroyed, and at least 10 of their troops killed. During the same period, three Iraqi military personnel were taken prisoner by our warriors.

In the southern operational sector, our victorious combatants maintained control over all regions under their protection, returned enemy fire, and silenced the Saddamists' heavy artillery fire. The fire exchange was more intense in the Moharram operational sector where our forces' heavy artillery fire neutralized all enemy activities. The forces of Islam maintained their battle superiority and defended their own positions.

Our forces yesterday saw an enemy patrol group south of the Sharhani garrison and opened fire; as a result, the enemy patrol group suffered losses and dispersed.

The city of Abadan yesterday came under enemy long-range heavy artillery fire from time to time, which demolished two houses. The air defense units' fire and tactics of the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 24 hours repulsed the enemy air intrusions over the operational sectors and part of the border regions in the south and west.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRNA REPORTS ON FIGHTING ON WESTERN FRONTS

GF111746 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] Bakhtaran, Jan. 11, IRNA -- Sixteen Iraqi troops were killed or wounded by a patrol group of the Islamic combatants who smashed two enemy vehicles in a western front, in the Sumar-Nafteshahr region of Bakhtaran Province, Monday.

Also, the Iranian forces maintained the upper hand during the fire exchanges in most of the western fronts, being more intense in Muslim ibn 'Aqil theatre, over the past 24 hours.

The fire and activities of the aggressors were checked and several Iraqi trenches were demolished by the superior firepower of the Islamic defenders in the said regions.

Meanwhile, a report from Ilam said that the air defence fire of the Iranian troops immediately repulsed the Iraqi war planes which violated Ilam's air space today. The aggressor planes were forced to flee without carrying about any mission.

CLANDESTINE REPORTS RAJAVI-'AZIZ COMMUNIQUE

GF110550 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy Iraqi prime minister, and Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the National Reisstance Council of Iran and chairman of Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, met in Rajavi's residence in Auveres-sur-Oise on 9 January to discuss the need to end the Iran-Iraq war. At the end of the meeting, the two sides issued a statement for the two nations of Iran and Iraq and all the supporters of peace in the area and the world. It says:

Tariq 'Aziz explained to Rajavi Iraq's sincere desire to establish peace between Iran and Iraq on the basis of complete sovereignty, national integrity, mutual respect for the free will of the two people, nonintervention in international affairs, establishment of ties between the two people on the basis of mutual respect, benefits and joint cooperation in a manner beneficial to their goals for freedom, progress, and peace, mutual benefit and in the service in peace and stability in the region.

'Aziz also outlined for Rajavi Iraqi initiatives in this respect including positions taken and explained his desire to gain the confidence of the Iranian people and their fighting forces who believe in peace between the two masses. He invited Rajavi, on behalf of the Iraqi leadership, to visit Iraq to establish brotherly ties between the two masses on the basis of mutual respect and willingness to establish peace. 'Aziz also stressed the fact that the ties between the two sides are on the basis of political understandings of the two sides for the rightful desires of their people and not on any other basis in order to resolve any misunderstandings caused by press reports about the relations between the two sides.

The joint communique continues:

1. Rajavi outlined the just resistance of the people of Iran concerning the peaceful solution of the disagreement between the two countries, which can be on the basis of direct negotiations between the sides within the framework of sovereignty and national integrity of both sides with consideration for the policy of nonintervention in the internal affairs of each other and mutual coexistence, a solution which is solely based on the democratic alternative [offered] by the National Resistance Council and the interim government of the democratic Islamic republic which will be established in Iran following the fall of Khomeyni's regime.

2. Rajavi announced that since last June only Khomeyni has been the force behind the continuation of the war with Iraq. It is a war which following the Iraqi evacuation of Iranian soil and their announcmeent of readiness for complete withdrawal of forces no longer has any meaning and is solely to serve the dictatorial and crushing regime of Khomeyni against the will of the Iranian nation. Rajavi explained that the war is tied to the destiny of Khomeyni's regime and he is using it to cover up the extensive internal resistance, in order to harness the deep social and economic crisis and for satisfying his mad expansionist desires for establishment of a medieval empire in the name of Islam through the so-called policy of exporting the revolution.

3. Rajavi also called Khomeyni the agent of anarchy, war, and crises in the most sensitive area of the world, the Middle East, and announced: Since Khomeyni only understands the language of force, the idea of peace with Khomeyni is not a realistic one except when he is completely defenseless and weak. Therefore, all peace-loving nations and governments of the world should establish an oil boycott against him since oil pays the immense cost of his war.

4. While stressing the condemnation of any measure against the civilians and the attacks by Khomeyni's regime against the defenseless citizens of Iraq, Rajavi asked the Government of Iraq to note the safety and security of towns and villages and defenseless people of Iran. At this point, Tariq 'Aziz expressed his deep understanding of this issue.

5. Rajavi, while condemning the treatment and execution of Iraqi POW's by Khomeyni's regime -- documents concerning this previously have been released by the Mojahedin organization at an international level -- asked for treatment of Iranian POW's in Iraq, especially the members of armed forces, on the basis of the Geneva Convention. 'Aziz stressed that Iraq respects the Geneva Convention and will continue to do so. He suggested that Rajavi send a special envoy to visit Iranian POW's in Iraq.

6. Rajavi announced that he has no basic objections to a visit to Iraq and stated that he will study this very soon.

[Signed] Mas'ud Rajavi, Tariq 'Aziz, 9 January 1983

NVOI CALLS FOR 'IMMEDIATE END' TO GULF WAR

TA112024 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Prolongation of the Long War of Attrition Is Only to the Benefit of America"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: As you are aware, the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that Iraq's representative in Paris held talks about the purchase of arms and fighter planes, and that these talks were successful. This same report said Iraq also is receiving aid from Arab countries. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, provisional Friday imam of Tehran, in the first Friday prayer sermon, referring to America's provocations in the region, talked about the purchase of arms by Iraq from the Arab reactionary regimes that are subservient to America.

Such reports indicate that the imperialists are still fanning the flame of war between Iraq and Iran through various means, and that they have exerted all their efforts to prolong the war of attrition. The continuation of the war by itself is proof that the killings and the devastation resulting from the war also will continue.

The aftermath and consequences of the imposed war cannot be summarized in the aforementioned painful, calamitous and regrettable points. The immense expenditures spent for military preparations due to the prolonging of the long war of attrition is further undermining our homeland's weak economy and afflicting it with more pitiful problems. At the same time, there is no doubt that continuation of the imposed war is the greatest obstacle to achieving the aims of the Iranian nation's glorious revolution.

The desire of the world-devouring U.S. imperialists, who have no aim in imposing the war other than to undermine the Islamic Republic of Iran and to prevent the stabilization, extention, and development of its popular and anti-imperialist revolution, is also the very prolongation of the war. By prolonging the long war of attrition until the last moment, they strive to deprive the Iranian people of the opportunity, possibility, and power of economic, social, and cultural construction and fundamental transformations.

If we take into consideration that the government figures of the Islamic Republic of Iran some time ago confirmed that the damages resulting from the war are estimated at more than $150 billion, then it is not at all difficult to understand that if world-devouring America had not imposed the war on our people, our homeland's economic, industrial, and agricultural standard of living would have grown much more than at present and our liberated homeland would have traveled the path of progress much faster.

The sum of $150 billion in damages is one of the horrifying results of the imposed war. However the damages suffered from the imposed war are not summarized in this enormous sum. In the entire period that this imposed destructive war has continued, millions of dollars have been spent for military expenditures. In the war-stricken areas, industrial units, factories, and workshops producing wealth and consumer goods, which our society needs now more than at any other time, have been destroyed, and in most fields production work has been halted entirely.

It is in view of such problems that the prolongation or end of the imposed war on our homeland today is raised as one of the most urgent problems. It is for this reason that the war's continuation involving numerous other expenditures, destructions, and sacrifices is raised. However, by terminating the imposed war, first, we will be able to prevent so much damage and casualties; second, we will obtain the opportunity and possibility to fulfill the aspirations and goals of the revolution, for reviving the economy and national industries and agriculture and for releasing the people and government from the back-breaking burdens that have been created as a result of the continuation of the long war of attrition.

It is in view of the above-mentioned facts that the true forces of the revolution and the sincere followers of the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line demand the immediate end of this destructive war, by taking into consideration our nation's legitimate and legal demands. The prolongation of this war is neither in the interest of the Iranian nation nor the Iraqi nation or the nations of the countries of the Persian Gulf region. So far, only the great satan, the Zionist Israel and the leaders of the region's reactionary regimes have benefitted and are benefitting from this imposed war. By exploiting this long war of attrition, America is escalating its military presence in the region day by day.

Just recently, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Islamic Majlis speaker, in an interview with the correspondent of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, rightly said: My analysis is that as long as war continues it is to the benefit of America. America exploits the war both to undermine the capabilities of two countries and those of several countries that support Iraq and to sell arms and ammunition. This also makes the region's countries dependent on colonialist countries.

Just very recently, the U.S. secretary of defense and the majority leader in the U.S. Senate declared that they have entered into negotiations with countries such as Saudi Arabia to organize practical cooperation between the United States and the region's subservient countries against Iran. All these are indications of the depth of the plot that the great satan will attempt to implement should the long war of attrition continue. It is in view of these bitter facts that our homeland's people demand an immediate end to the war by taking into consideration their legitimate demands and rightly warn that the continuation of the imposed war of attrition is only to the benefit of world-devouring America and its Iranian agents and mercenaries.

REPORTAGE ON MALAGASY FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

6 January Arrival

LD061155 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jan 83

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Christian Remi Richard, minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a delegation of officials from that country.

He was welcomed by Mr Velayati and a few officials from Iran's Foreign Affairs and Oil Ministries. During his 3-day visit to Iran, the Malagasy foreign minister will have meetings and discussions with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On his arrival in Tehran, in an interview with our correspondent, he said concerning the aims of his visit to Tehran:

I have come to Tehran following the invitation of Mr Velayati during his visit to Madagascar. As I will be going to Managua from Tehran to take part in the conference of foreign ministers from the nonaligned countries, my stay in Tehran will be short. He added: I will discuss with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran international issues, the difficulties of the countries of the Nonaligned Movement, and the establishment and expansion of political and economic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic Republic of Madagascar.

First Round of Talks

GF070626 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] The first round of talks between the foreign ministers of Iran and Madagascar on mutual relations and their expansion and on international affairs were held yesterday afternoon.

Present at the talks were the oil directors general and the representative of the Central Bank of Madagascar.

Velayati said with regard to the expansion of relations: "We sincerely support every state that has regular dealings with us and enjoys its existence on the basis of popular will."

The foreign minister of Madagascar, during his talks with the foreign minister of our country, said: "We want the Indian Ocean to become a peace zone. However, our desire is in direct conflict with the interests of superpowers and has resulted in them taking belligerent actions against us. Similarly, our opposition to the expansionist designs of the Zionist regime has resulted in it taking similar actions against us."

9 January Departure

GF091810 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Jan 9, IRNA -- Madagascar's foreign minister, Christian Remi Richard, left Tehran this afternoon after a four day official visit.

Madagascar's foreign minister, who arrived here on Jan. 6, heading a political and economic delegation, prior to his departure told IRNA that his talks with Iranian officials were successful and hoped that relations between the two countries would further expand.

He further added that his talks with Iranian Government officials including Commerce Minister Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi-Mosalman, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Governor of the Central Bank of Iran Mohsen Nurbakhsh, made him highly optimistic of the future relations between Iran and Madagascar.

INTERIOR MINISTER APPOINTS NEW POLICE CHIEF

LD121142 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jan 83

[Text] Following the resignation of Colonel Ebrahim Hejazi as chief of police of the Islamic Republic, Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri has appointed Colonel Khalil Samimi to the post.

'INSURGENTS' KILLED, CAPTURED IN OPERATIONS

LD112100 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Text] According to the report received from the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada base, in the continuation of the mopping-up operations in the western regions of the country, cleansing those regions from the filthy existence of armed insurgents and counter-revolutionaries dependent upon world arrogance, the fighters of Islam yesterday succeeded in mopping up nine villages in Takab region. In these operations, seven insurgents were killed and a number were wounded. Five counterrevolutionaries were captured by the forces of Islam.

During a surprise attack, the fighters of Islam succeeded in destroying the concentration of the dependent counterrevolutionaries in (Kasegaran) village, the Gilan-Sar Dasht axis. During these operations, six armed insurgents were killed and one was captured.